CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1   1.   An automatic method of configuring a server in a system including a plurality of servers,

2   comprising:

3   (a)   requesting configuration data by the server to be configured;

4   (b)   automatically retrieving configuration data appropriate for the server from a device

5   external to the server; and

6   (c)   providing the retrieved configuration data to the server.

1   2.   The method of claim 1 wherein said external device comprises a chassis communication

2   module.

1   3.   The method of claim 1 wherein the server and other servers couple to a chassis

2   communication module and (b) includes retrieving the configuration data from another server

3   besides said server being configured.

1   4.   The method of claim 1 further including determining which of said other servers includes

2   configuration data suitable for use by the server being configured and (b) includes retrieving such

3   other server's configuration data.

1   5.   The method of claim 1 wherein (a) includes providing a server type value with said request

2   for configuration data.

1 6. The method of claim 5 further including using said server type value to determine which of

2 said other servers includes configuration data suitable for use by the server being configured and

3 (b) includes retrieving such other server's configuration data.

1 7. A computer system, comprising:

2 a first plurality of servers; and

3 a first chassis communication module coupled to said first plurality of servers;

4 wherein at least one of said plurality of servers can be configured automatically once

5 installed into said system, said installed server to be configured submitting a request

6 for configuration data to said first chassis communication module which

7 automatically retrieves and provides configuration data to said server for

8 configuration.

1 8. The computer system of claim 7 wherein said configuration data provided to said server

2 was stored in memory on said first chassis communication module.

1 9. The computer system of claim 7 wherein said configuration data provided to said server

2 was stored on another of said plurality of servers.

1 10. The computer system of claim 7 further including:

2 a second chassis communication module coupled to said first chassis communication

3 module; and

4 a second plurality of servers coupled to said second chassis communication module;

5   wherein said configuration data provided to said server was stored in memory on said

6   second chassis communication module.

1   11.   The computer system of claim 7 further including:

2   a second chassis communication module coupled to said first chassis communication

3   module; and

4   a second plurality of servers coupled to said second chassis communication module;

5   wherein said configuration data provided to said server was stored in memory on one of

6   said second plurality of servers.

1   12.   The computer system of claim 7 wherein said request includes the type of server to be

2   configured and said first chassis communication module uses said type of server to retrieve

3   configuration data suitable for the server to be configured.

1   13.   The computer system of claim 12 wherein said first chassis communication module finds

2   another of said first plurality of servers that is of the same type as the server to be configured and

3   retrieves configuration data corresponding to such matching other server.

1   14.   An electronic system, comprising:

2   a first plurality of configurable devices; and

3   a first chassis communication module coupled to said first plurality of configurable

4   devices;

5   wherein at least one of said plurality of configurable devices can be configured

6   automatically once installed into said system, said installed configurable device to

7   be configured submitting a request for configuration data to said first chassis

8   communication module which retrieves and provides configuration data to said

9   configurable device for configuration.

10 15.   The electronic system of claim 14 wherein said configuration data provided to said server

11 was stored in memory on said first chassis communication module.

1 16.   The electronic system of claim 14 wherein said configuration data provided to said server

2 was stored on another of said plurality of servers.

1 17.   The electronic system of claim 14 further including:

2   a second chassis communication module coupled to said first chassis communication

3   module; and

4   a second plurality of servers coupled to said second chassis communication module;

5   wherein said configuration data provided to said server was stored in memory on said

6   second chassis communication module.

1 18.   The electronic system of claim 14 further including:

2   a second chassis communication module coupled to said first chassis communication

3   module; and

4   a second plurality of servers coupled to said second chassis communication module;

5 wherein said configuration data provided to said server was stored in memory on one of

6   said second plurality of servers.

1 19. The electronic system of claim 14 wherein said request includes the type of server to be

2 configured and said first chassis communication module uses said type of server to retrieve

3 configuration data suitable for the server to be configured.

1 20. The electronic system of claim 19 wherein said first chassis communication module finds

2 another of said first plurality of servers that is of the same type as the server to be configured and

3 retrieves configuration data corresponding to such matching other server.

1 21. A configurable device adapted to be installed into a system that includes other configurable

2 devices, said configurable device including:

3   a CPU;

4   memory coupled to said CPU and on which configuration is stored; and

5   an embedded management processor coupled to said CPU, said embedded management

6   processor determines whether said configurable device has been configured and, if

7   not, submits a request to an external device to provide configuration data

8   corresponding to another configurable device in said system.

1 22. The configurable device of claim 21 wherein said request includes a configurable device

2 type.

1 23.   A method of configuring a server in a system including a plurality of servers, comprising:

2   (a)   requesting configuration data by the server to be configured;

3   (b)   if automatic configuration has been specified for the server, automatically retrieving

4   configuration data appropriate for the server from a device external to the server;

5   and providing the retrieved configuration data to the server; or

6   (c)   if automatic configuration has not been specified for the server, manually

7   configuring the server.